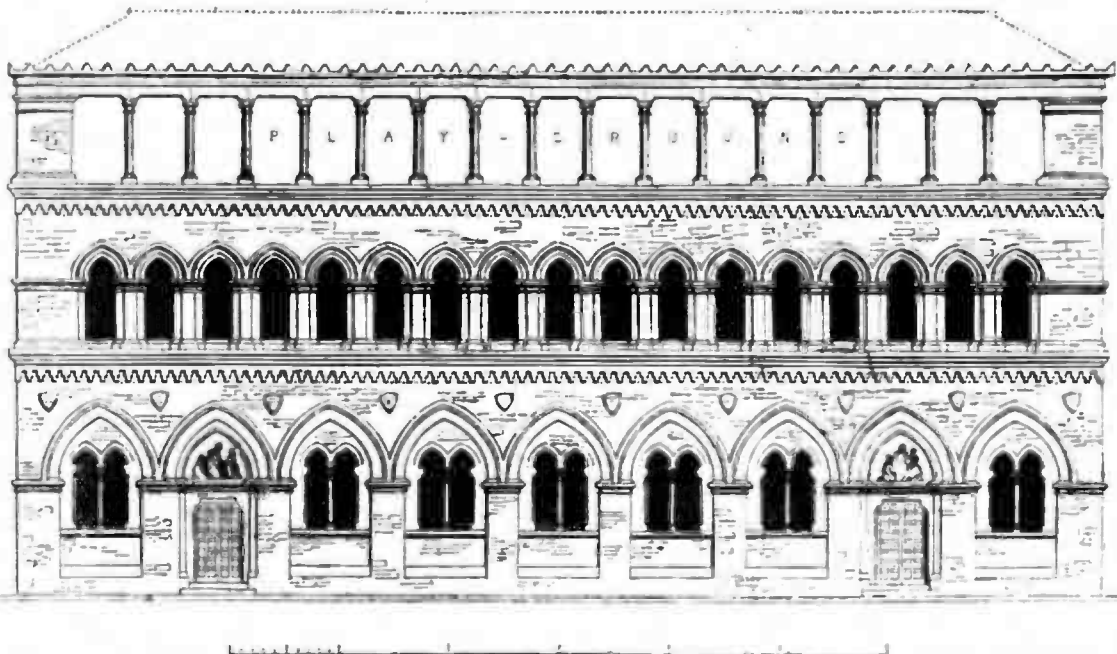


NORTHERN SCHOOLS, ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS, LONDON.

MR. JAMES WILD, ARCHITECT.



pendent on lodges, lakes, gates, &c., to this park, surely it would have been better policy to have saved a little elsewhere, and fixed English oak posts to their fencing.

MORE ANON.

NEW NORTHERN SCHOOLS, SAINT MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS, LONDON.

ANNEXED we give the elevation of the Northern Schools for St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, intended to be built in Castle-street, under the superintendence of Mr. Wild, as stated in our last number.

The frontage of the building is 100 feet: on the first floor this length, by 24 ft. 6 in., is divided into two school-rooms, one for 200 boys and the other for 200 girls; on the ground floor there is a school-room for 320 infants—thus making 720 children in all.

The building will be faced with red brick; the arches and moulding to be rubbed and gauged; the columns and architrave of the gallery or playground, which extends over the top of the whole, are of Caen stone. The style approximates to the Gothic of the north of Italy.

The amount of the contract entered into by Messrs. Haward and Nixon is 2,433l.*

The doors are to be of oak, panelled (as shown in the design), and are further to be ornamented with bronze studs. The sculpture over the doors is only proposed, and is not included in the estimate: probably there will be inscriptions instead.

From the height of the building and the width of the street, the roof cannot be seen, and, therefore, forms no part of the design.

CHEAPENING DWELLINGS FOR THE POOR.—It is supposed that one-fourth of the cost of a dwelling which lets for half-a-crown or three shillings a-week, is caused by the expense of the title-deeds and the tax on wood and bricks used in its construction. Of course the owner of such property must be remunerated, and he therefore charges sevenpence halfpenny or ninepence a-week to cover these burdens. Government affect to regret that the working classes are crowded together, which looks very like hypocrisy, as it is in their power to prevent it by reducing the price of buildings, and, consequently, lessening rents. R.

* The highest of seventeen tenders received was 3,774l.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

THE foundation stone of a new church was laid in Grosvenor-square, on Wednesday week. It will be arranged to contain 1,090 sittings, including those of 150 children. The body of the edifice will be approached by a flight of steps from the square, 6 feet above the street. The length of it will be 72 feet, and breadth 51 feet. A further mass of building for sessions-house, vestry, and schools will extend to the extreme depth of the land, bounded by Chatham-street, 60 feet in length by 36 feet. A large lecture-room is to extend under the body of the church, and be of the same dimension. The design appears to be somewhat curious. It is thus described in a Manchester paper:—"The style of architecture is Roman Corinthian. The front to Grosvenor-square has a portico in antis, with Corinthian columns and pilasters at each angle, surmounted by two cupolas, which are to be executed in stone. The novelty of this part of the design is much more remarkable than either its appropriateness or its success. Not only are turrets or cupolas at the base angles of the pediment of a Grecian building wholly unauthorized in architecture, but they are totally opposed to the principles upon which its beauty depends. And, in the present case, there is the further objection that the turrets are themselves exceedingly ugly piles, and, with their heavy and clumsy pillars, and massive buttresses, are about as little suited to the light and graceful elegance of a Corinthian building as anything that can well be imagined. Besides, the architects have not merely introduced turrets into the design, but they actually seem intending to bind them together by a blank curtain wall, thus giving to the edifice a square instead of an angular termination; and producing, as it seems to us, a most clumsy and awkward effect. We would fain hope that it is not yet too late to re-consider these parts of the design; for we are sure that the edifice would be much improved by their omission." The architects are Messrs. Starkey and Cuffey, of Manchester.

ANOTHER PAVEMENT AT CIRENCESTER.—We learn that on Wednesday in last week another pavement was discovered at Cirencester,—making the sixth that has been found upon the spot that has recently excited so much interest.

CUTTING BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS.

SIR,—In your columns I frequently find the architects individually desecrating upon the subject of competitions. I much wish that the whole profession would feel it to be their duty as well as their advantage to promote the interests of the respectable portion of the building trade in every branch, by strenuously refusing in all competitions to superintend the execution of works under the lowest estimate, unless it is in their opinion adequate to afford a remunerating profit to an expert tradesman. In the present state of things, the profession must be fully aware, from their experience and knowledge of the cost of material and labour, that "blind or roguish builders" are running away with a great portion of the business, and I regret to add of my own knowledge, that it is in a great measure attributable to the readiness with which the profession fall into the plan (or advise employers) of obtaining competition for everything, thus inducing even the most respectable established tradesman to unnecessarily curtail his profit, in the hope of keeping his customer. As to a combination of the building trade, it is completely out of the question while so many are to be found who look to the bankruptcy and insolvent courts as the only mode of settling with their creditors, and also when gentlemen taking houses allow themselves to be duped into the mode of employing the merely office-keeping house-agents with which the town abounds, to get the repairs and decorations done for them,—men who, totally ignorant of the nature of the business, or the quality of a single article used, let out the work to poor competing task-masters, at an enormous profit to themselves, and very generally at a loss, or near a kin to it, to the poor fellow employed, while the gentleman gets his work but half, or very superficially executed, but which he does not discover until some time after he has paid for it.

A BUILDER.

MR. JOHN WOOLLEY.—Some of our readers will hear with regret of the premature death of Mr. John Woolley. Mr. Woolley was a highly accomplished member of the profession, and an excellent man; had he been led to practice (his circumstances rendered it unnecessary), he would have distinguished himself in his art. He was a member of the Council of the Institute. We lose in him an amiable friend.